

aunts are not tall. That is a matter that surely ^{an} aunt may be allowed to decide for herself. You seem ^{to} think that every aunt should be exactly like your aunt! That ^{is} is absurd. For Heaven's sake give me back my cigarette case.

[Follows Algernon round the room.]

Algernon. Yes. But why does your aunt call you her ^{uncle?} uncle? "From little Cecily, with her fondest love to her dear ^{Uncle} Uncle Jack." There is no objection, I admit, to an aunt ^{being} being a small aunt, but why an aunt, no matter what her ^{size} size may be, should call her own nephew her uncle, I can't quite make out. Besides, your name isn't Jack at all; it is Ernest.

Jack. It isn't Ernest; it's Jack.

Algernon. You have always told me it was Ernest. I ^{have} have introduced you to every one as Ernest. You answer ^{to} to the name of Ernest. You look as if you name was Ernest. You are the most earnest-looking person I ever saw ⁱⁿ in my life. It is perfectly absurd your saying that your name ^{isn't} isn't Ernest. It's on your cards. Here is one of them.

[Taking it from case.] "Mr. Ernest Worthing, B. 4, The Albany."*

I'll keep this as a proof that your name is Ernest ^{if} if ever you attempt to deny it to me, or to Gwendolen, or ^{to} to any one else. *[Puts the card, in his pocket.]*

Jack. Well, my name is Ernest in town and Jack in the ^{country,} country, and the cigarette case was given to me in the country.

Algernon. Yes, but that does not account for the ^{fact} fact that your small Aunt Cecily, who lives at Tunbridge Wells, ^{calls} calls you her dear uncle. Come, old boy, you had much ^{better} better have the thing out at once.

Jack. My dear Algy, you talk exactly as if you were ^a a dentist. It is very vulgar to talk like a dentist when one isn't ^a a dentist. It produces a false impression.

Algernon. Well, that is exactly what dentists always ^{do.} do. Now, go on I Tell me the whole thing. I may mention ^{that} that I have always suspected you of being a confirmed and ^{secret} secret Bunburyist; and I am quite sure of it now.

Jack. Bunburyist? What on earth do you mean by a ^{Bun-} Bunburyist?

Algernon. I'll reveal to you the meaning of that incomparable expression as soon as you are kind enough to inform ^{me} me why you are Ernest in town and Jack in the country.

Jack. Well, produce my cigarette case first.

Algernon. Here it is. *[Hands cigarette case ^]* Now produce your explanation, and pray make it improbable. *[Sits on sofa.]*